

# NIHR CRSU

Complex Reviews Support Unit

# What Can We Help With?

CRSU & Cochrane Workshop 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018

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Department of Health Disclaimer:

The views and opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of NIHR, NHS or the Department of Health

# Complex Reviews Support Unit (CRSU)

- Funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)
- To provide flexible, timely and appropriate support for successful delivery of <u>complex</u> reviews funded and/or supported by NIHR
  - including Cochrane reviews (with UK-based author)
- To contribute to building capacity and capability

# What do we mean by Complex Reviews?

• Mahtani et al. (BMJ Blog 2018) defined a complex review as:

"A systematic review consisting of multiple components, large amounts of data from different sources, and different perspectives, united or connected, collectively contributing more than would be expected from their individual contributions; the components are not easily coordinated, analysed, or disentangled."

# What do we mean by Complex Reviews?

- No review is without complexity
- Expertise of CRSU primarily focused on methodological complexity (i.e. not clinical) but acknowledge some issues cross-cutting
  - e.g. combining studies with a degree of clinical heterogeneity
- Generally, operate on inclusiveness
  - i.e. we aim to help where we can!

## Current challenges to complex reviews

- Increasingly complex clinical and policy questions to be answered
- Existing evidence often limited and heterogeneous
- Multiple treatment/intervention options with no head-to-head evidence
- Outcomes of interest have complex data structure

## **Expertise within CRSU**

### **Key Areas of Support**

- Diagnostic test accuracy (DTA) reviews
- Network meta-analysis (NMA)
- Individual participant data (IPD)/clinical study report meta-analysis

### **Other Areas of Support**

- Economic evaluation
- Realist synthesis
- Qualitative reviews
- Use of routine data
- Non-randomised studies
- Prognostic reviews
- Prevalence reviews
- Causal pathway analysis

## Support to date

- Cochrane Review Groups
- Cochrane Programme Grant holders
- Incentive Award scheme holders
- Training / Workshops
- NIHR-funded projects

## Cochrane Review Groups

### Protocol / Full reviews

- Airways
- Heart

### Network meta-analysis

- Anaesthesia, Critical and Emergency Care
- Gynaecological, Neuro-oncology and Orphan Cancers
- Effective Practice and Organisation of Care
- Skin
- Wounds
- Hepato-Biliary
- Global Aging

## Diagnostic Test Accuracy Meta-analysis

Dementia and Cognitive Improvement

# Sequential analysis / Using evidence synthesis to help inform the next study

- Wounds
- Pregnancy and Childbirth

## Cochrane Programme Grants

## - Applications & Award

## **Cochrane Review Group**

- Airways
- Gynaecological, Neuro-oncology
  & Orphan Cancers
- Oral Health
- Tobacco Addiction
- Injuries
- Hepato-Biliary
- Neonatal
- Epilepsy
- Haematological Malignancies
- Eyes & Vision

## **Methods**

- Network meta-analysis
- Regression models
- Diagnostic test accuracy
- Hierarchical modelling
- Prognostic reviews
- Non-statistical synthesis of quantitative data

# Training / Workshops: Cochrane-focused

## Cochrane UK & Ireland Symposium

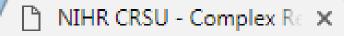
- 'Methodological Challenges in Complex Reviews' (Birmingham 2016)
- Opportunities for Greater Impact An Organisational Perspective ' (Birmingham 2016)
- 'Can Cochrane reviews take a more active role in informing the design of future trials?' (Oxford 2017)
- 'Examples of collaborations with Cochrane Review Groups: assessment of complex interventions, test accuracy and network meta-analyses.'
   (Oxford 2017)

### Cochrane review groups

- 'Sequential-meta-analysis' (Cochrane Dementia and Cognitive Improvement Group, Oxford, 2016)
- 'New developments in DTA reviews' 'Network meta-analysis' (Cochrane Stroke Group, Edinburgh, 2018)

# Training / Workshops - Other

- 'Systematic reviews and meta-analysis of diagnostic test accuracy' (with NICE Guidelines Support Group, London, 2017)
- 'Advanced diagnostic test synthesis' (with NICE Guidelines Support Group, London, 2017)
- 'Meta-analysis of diagnostic test accuracy studies for healthcare policy and decision making' (Global Evidence Summit, Cape Town, 2017)
- 'Survival analysis: beyond proportional hazards' (Royal Statistical Society Conference, Glasgow 2017)
- 'Challenges in doing narrative synthesis: issues and (some) solutions' (Exeter, 2017)
- 'The role of the CRSU in supporting the successful delivery of complex reviews.'
  (North West Evidence Synthesis Network Symposium, 2017)
- 'Using GRADE in public-health guidelines: challenges and some solutions?' (Global Evidence Summit, Cape Town, 2017)
- 'Methods for conducting syntheses (including different evidence, searching and information retrieval, statistics, assessing methodological quality)' (Global Evidence Summit, Cape Town, 2017)







## NIHR CRSU - Complex Reviews Support Unit

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The Team

Apply for CRSU Support

Materials and Guidance

Courses and Conferences

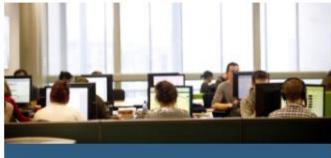
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#### About us

NIHR CRSU: Supporting Successful Delivery of Complex Reviews



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